



News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
Thunder Basin National Grassland
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>

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Forest Service seeks comments on modified Ski Area Summer Trails proposal

(Steamboat Springs, Colo. March 28, 2011) – The Forest Service is again seeking public comment on the Steamboat Ski Area's proposal to construct new summer trails and change the use of some existing trails. During the initial phases of the analysis process, and based on comments received both from the public and internally, the Ski Area's initial proposal was modified, and an additional Alternative was developed to address reducing potential hydrological and soil issues.

"We want to give the public an opportunity to review and comment on these changes to the Ski Area's proposal," said Kent Foster, recreation program manager for the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears Ranger District.

The Steamboat Ski Area operates under a USDA Forest Service special use permit on the Routt National Forest. The comprehensive trails plan will help continue the development of Steamboat Ski Area as a "premier, four-season resort" and meet the increasing demands for summer uses.

The specific needs for these changes are to:

- Reduce the potential for collisions, risk of injury, and to avoid conflict between users.
- Provide a variety of downhill-only bike trails for the novice to experienced rider with access using the ski area lifts.
- Continue to offer uphill and cross-country mountain biking, hiking, and horseback riding opportunities and access to trails beyond the ski area boundary.
- Ensure trails are built to be sustainable over time and can be maintained with minimal cost.
- Reduce the unauthorized user-created mountain bike downhill trail construction currently taking place within the ski area boundary and in other areas within the Routt National Forest.

For a comprehensive list of trail changes and additions, and for instructions for commenting, please visit <http://fs.usda.gov/goto/mbr/planning>. Click on Projects and scroll to Steamboat Ski Area Summer Trails. Comments are due April 25, 2011.